

## Message Text

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62

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 EA-07 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PRS-01 SAJ-01 /061 W

----- 088778

R 291600Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7665

INFO AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O.: 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDIP, PFOR, CM

SUBJ: RELUCTANT SOVIET DIPLOMATIC DEAN-DESIGNATE

1. SUMMARY. SOVIET AMBASSADOR MALYCHEV CONVENED INFORMAL MEETING OF SEVEN MEMBERS YAOUNDE DIPLOMATIC CORPS, EXCLUDING US AND PRC AMBASSADORS AMONG OTHERS, TO INFORM THEM HE COULD NOT BECOME DEAN OR, IF HE DID, HE COULD NOT GIVE PARTIES ON BEHALF OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS. END SUMMARY.

2. DEPARTURE OF LAST DEAN OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS, NIGERIAN AMBASSADOR SADA (NOW POSTED TO WARSAW), WAS DELAYED UNTIL AFTER CORPS' NEW YEAR'S WISHES TO PRESIDENT AHIDJO, APPARENTLY ON LATTER'S ORDERS, TO PREVENT SOVIET AMBASSADOR MALYCHEV FROM SPEAKING FOR CORPS ON THAT OCCASION. VICE DEAN, LIBERIAN AMBASSADOR JOHNSON, HAS BEEN IN MONROVIA FOR TWO MONTHS AND SCUTTLEBUT HAS IT HE NOT PLANNING TO RETURN EXCEPT FOR FAREWELLS.

3. MAYCHEV GAVE FAREWELL PARTY FOR DEPARTING DEAN, TO WHICH HE DID NOT REPEAT NOT INVITE SOUTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR. VARIOUS COLLEAGUES REMONSTRATED WITH MALYCHEV, WHOSE EXCUSE WAS THAT HE WAS ONLY ACTING VICE DEAN AND THEREFORE GIVING PARTY IN CAPACITY AS SOVIET AMBASSADOR. HE ALSO FAILED TO SOLICIT CONTRIBUTION FOR CUSTOMARY FAREWELL PRESENT FROM SOUTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR. I TOLD

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FONMIN KEUTCHA ABOUT INCIDENT, WHO HAD NOT HEARD ABOUT IT FROM

OTHER SOURCES AND CONSIDERED SOVIET BEHAVIOR VERY BAD AND INCORRECT.

4. CANADIAN AMBASSADOR CHATILLON AT RECENT SOCIAL GATHERING ASKED MALYCHEV WHETHER HE, AS ACTING DEAN, WAS PLANNING TO CON-  
VENE CORPS TO DISCUSS COMMON PROBLEMS. MALYPOEV SAID HE SAW NO  
NEED FOR THIS, BUT TWO DAYS LATER INVITED CANADIAN AND SIX  
OTHERS TO MEETING AT SOVIET EMBASSY, HELD JANUARY 28. THOSE  
INVITED WERE AMBASSADORS OF ZAIRE, NETHERLANDS, ITALY, CENTRAL  
AFRICAN REPUBLIC, BELGIUM, GREECE, AND CANADIAN WHO IS ONLY ONE  
INVITED TO HAVE PRESENTED LETTERS OF CREDENCE LATER THAN MYSELF.

5. ACCORDING TO BELGIAN AMBASSADOR BRANCART, MALYCHEV OPENED  
MEETING BY TELLING COLLEAGUES THAT, HAVING GIVEN THE MATTER SER-  
IOUS CONSIDERATION, HE HAD CONCLUDED HE COULD NOT ACCEPT DEAN-  
SHIP. "WE KNOW WHAT WE CAN DO AND WHAT WE CANNOT DO. I CANNOT BE  
DEAN." BRANCART INTERPRETED THIS TO MEAN THAT MALYCHEV HAD RE-  
CEIVED INSTRUCTIONS NOT TO BECOME DEAN - UNLESS THE CORPS WOULD  
LET HIM GET AWAY WITH NOT REPEAT NOT GIVING FAREWELL AND OTHER  
PARTIES ON ITS BEHALF. THE DEAR COLLEAGUES REMONSTRATED WITH HIM.  
ONE OF THEM SUGGESTED HE COULD SPEAK FOR THE CORPS TO GURC ON  
QUESTIONS LIKE SECURITY OF EMBASSIES, BUT MALYCHEV SAID HE CON-  
SIDERED THOSE "PERSONAL", PRESUMABLY MEANING EMBASSY-TO-GOVERN-  
MENT RATHER THAN CORPS-TO GURC MATTERS. HE ASKED FOR THEIR COM-  
PREHENSION AND LEFT MATTERS IN THE POSITION "DEAN YEA, BUT  
PARTIES NO." WHEN THE BELGIAN ASKED WHETHER HE PLANNED TO INFORM  
PROTOCOL IN MINFONAFF, HE SAID "NO, NOT AT THE PRESENT TIME."

6. AT THE BEGINNING OF MEETING, WESTERN AMBASSADORS TOLD SOVIET  
THAT SELECTIVE INVITATIONS WERE IMPROPER. MAYCHEV PLEADED  
SENIORITY AS CRITERION, AND WHEN TOLD OF CANADIAN'S JUNIORITY -  
CHATILLON IS IN FACT JUNIOR MOST RESIDENT AMBASSADOR - HE JOKED  
THAT CANADIAN COULD REPRESENT GREAT NORTH AMERICAN CONTINENT.

7. FOR WARSAW: STORY WILL AMUSE AMBASSADOR SADA, A GOOD DIPLOMAT,  
WHENHE CALLS ON AMBASSADOR DAVIS.

8. FOR MONROVIA. WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION ABOUT LIBERIAN  
AMBASSADOR PETER A. JOHNSON'S PLANS.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL, SOCIAL RECEPTIONS, DIPLOMATIC PROTOCOL  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 29 JAN 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976YAOUND00359  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760035-0287  
**From:** YAOUNDE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Line Count:** 107  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** morefirh  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 05 MAY 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <05 MAY 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <17 MAY 2004 by morefirh>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** RELUCTANT SOVIET DIPLOMATIC DEAN-DESIGNATE  
**TAGS:** PDIP, PFOR, CM, (MALYCHEV)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006